

Minutes of the Meeting
Board of Directors
San Jose Downtown Association

April 12, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Jose Downtown Association, a non-profit California organization, was held at The Glass House, 2 S. Market Street, San Jose, CA.

The following directors were present at the meeting: Bartl, Buchholz, Burroughs, Cirone, Corbett, Jenkins, McClain, Nichols, Pulcrano, Rewkiewicz, Serpa, Summers, Truong, Vuckovich and Wong.

The following directors were absent from the meeting: Bates, Calais, De Bernardo, Gilbert, Lambert, Matsushima, Neale, Osuka, Perez, Ramirez, Randall, Silver and Tabatabaie.

Also present were SJDA staff: Michelle Azevedo, Jonathan Borca, Corinna Dixon, Dori Gao, Rick Jensen, Danielle Ratliff, Jason Su, Chloe Verrey and Bree von Faith.

Also present: A.J. Faas, Ann Webb, Ben Faltor, Bob Martins, Brian Adams, Brian Greyson, Bruce Ives, Chris Weiler, Cliff Navales, Consuelo Hernandez, Dan Hudson, David Fernandez, David Heindel, David Lovato, David Tran, Derrick Seaver, Elana Berlante, Ellie Smith, Eric Heckman, Erik Schoennauer, Gene Campbell, Georgette Brown, Geri Wong, Gordon Johnson, Heather Bucy, Helen Ebert, Helen Masamori, Jackie Maclean, Jacky Morales-Ferrand, Janet Vertin, Jaye Bailey, Jena Del Rio, Jenny Austin, Johnny Khamis, Jose Cardoza, Kathleen Podrasky, Kelly Kline, Leslie Fisk, Lester Fontecha, Liz Hasenberg, Marcie Cerezo, Maricela Lechuga, Marilee Jennings, Marko Mohlenhoff, Mary Jo Heindel, Maureen Damrel, Michael Fallon, Mindy Nguyen, Myra Eitel, Nathalie Defrenne, Nicholas E. Adams, Paul Stednik, Phil Mastrolcola, Ramraj, Ramsey Nijmeh, Raul Peralez, Rebecca Moller, Ricardo Benavidez, Rich Turner, Richard Scott, Rosario Neaves, Scott McMaster, Scott Strickland, Sean Cottle, Sean Yamagiwa, Semu One Bear, Sharon Miller, Taraneh Sarrafzadeh, Temu Corona, Tim Gill, Whitney Morris

President Rewkiewicz called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m.

Rewkiewicz thanked The Glass House for hosting the meeting site and Liz Cirone of Hopkins & Carley for sponsoring the continental breakfast.

President's report

Rewkiewicz announced the opening day of Downtown Farmers' Market at San Pedro Street is on Friday, May 3.

Santa Run – Silicon Valley Leadership Group

SVLG Race Director Chris Weiler reviewed that the 7th Annual Santa Run Silicon Valley held on December 16, 2018 had over 4,000 participants and raised over \$55,000 benefitting Downtown Ice, Christmas in the Park and Reading Partners. Weiler presented von Faith with a check for \$27,500 in support of Downtown Ice.

Mitigating Homelessness

Raul Peralez, San José City Council, District 3

Peralez identified dealing with the homelessness crisis as the top priority of his term as downtown's D3 Councilmember. Holding community meetings has helped to identify and address the concerns of the community. Although the problem has not been solved, they know that they have solutions.

- San Jose currently has ~4,300 homeless individuals
- Permanent supportive housing is available for ~134 downtown individuals
- Need housing for ~400 more downtown individuals
- Two Bridge Housing Communities will accommodate 40 tiny homes each
- The City is considering allowing sanctioned encampments with amenities and access to services and establishing safe parking lots.

Peralez stressed that the need for community understanding of the issue and support of solutions is critical.

Jacky Morales-Ferrand, Director of Housing, City of San Jose

Morales-Ferrand identified homelessness as a complex issue that uniquely and immediately impacts the downtown area.

Since 2015 the City has worked with Destination Home, Santa Clara County, and the Housing Authority to house 6,000 homeless individuals county-wide. Although ~150 individuals are housed each month, another ~350 enter the system each month.

Although the City has said "yes" to many of the solutions, there is the great need for Dollars (funding), Dirt (places to build), and Determination (community support).

Solutions include supporting:

- Financial investment in a homelessness prevention fund
- PATH's downtown outreach team
- Plaza Hotel which provides short-term interim housing for working adults
- Overnight parking locations
- Bridge housing
- Rebuilding for Heroes
- Destination Home

Morales-Ferrand encouraged members to:

- Listen and learn about the issue
- Work together towards solutions
- Support ballot initiatives towards housing
- Say "yes" to placement of housing options
- Recognize homelessness as a problem

Consuelo Hernandez, Division Director, Office of Supportive Housing, Santa Clara Co.

Hernandez advised that the Office of Supportive Housing is working with all cities within the County.

In November 2016, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A a \$950 million Affordable Housing Bond projected to fund 120 new affordable housing

developments over ten years. To date, approximately \$250 million of that fund has been invested towards construction of 19 housing developments.

Additional information can be found at
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/osh/HousingandCommunityDevelopment/AffordableHousingBond/Pages/home.aspx>

The following service organizations were present to address questions pertaining to homelessness: PATH; Abode Services; Downtown Streets Team; and Catholic Charities.

President Rewkiewicz adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.